

A Perspective on the History of WI Early Childhood Cross Sector Partnerships



Bringing State Leadership to the Table: 1994

Wisconsin Early Childhood Summits

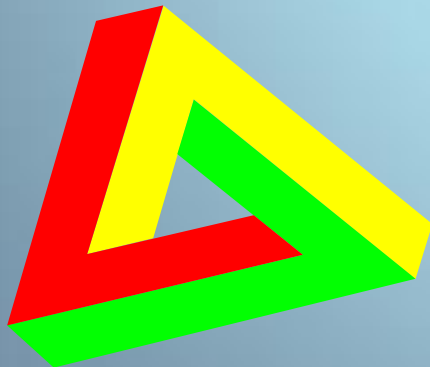
**Participation by Highest Level of Leadership from State
Departments and Associations**

"Where Care and Education Converge."

- Development of the philosophy and guiding principals: Summit I - October, 1994, Wingspread**
- Envision a new future for early childhood care and education: Summit II - February 1995**
- Addressed fears and concerns: Summit III - June 1995**

Resulted in the Creation of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP)

A collaboration of state and local, public and private, groups and individuals that are stakeholders in the area of early childhood care and education.



BUILDING CONSENSUS

Expanding the Stakeholders
Revisiting (Over and Over again)
Clarifying Our Concern
Identifying What to Address
Specifying the Vision
Building Public Awareness

Identifying What to Address

- Fragmented service delivery
- Duplication of services
- Gaps in services
- Need to be categorized and labeled
- Children shuttled between programs
- Difficult to get what is needed, at affordable costs
- Quality services are not always provided

Creating a Vision and Goal

Vision: A blended system of high quality, comprehensive early childhood care and education, for every child and family who wants it.

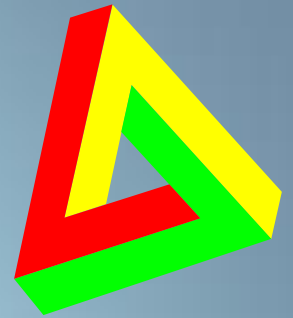
Goal: To develop and implement a plan that permits every child and family in Wisconsin access to a blended system of high quality comprehensive early childhood care and education.

(Note that Webster's Dictionary defines blended as "mix allied articles together smoothly and inseparably".)

Specifying the Vision

- Reach children and families early
- Allow children to be served without being labeled or sorted by eligibility, disability, and/or income levels
- Provide access to a sufficient range of developmental services for all our children
- Assure that quality services are available when and where families need them
- Provide safe and stimulating environments
- Support affordability for families
- Involve seniors and citizens of all ages

Creating a Organizational Structure



Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners

Group Meetings: Statewide meetings occur 2 times a year with at least 2 additional community focused meetings.

Action Team: This team is a small group of level partners that develop and monitor the WECCP Action Plan.

Communication: Web site, WECCP List serve, and mailings.

Working Together

ESTABLISH AN ACTION PLAN 2002-2003

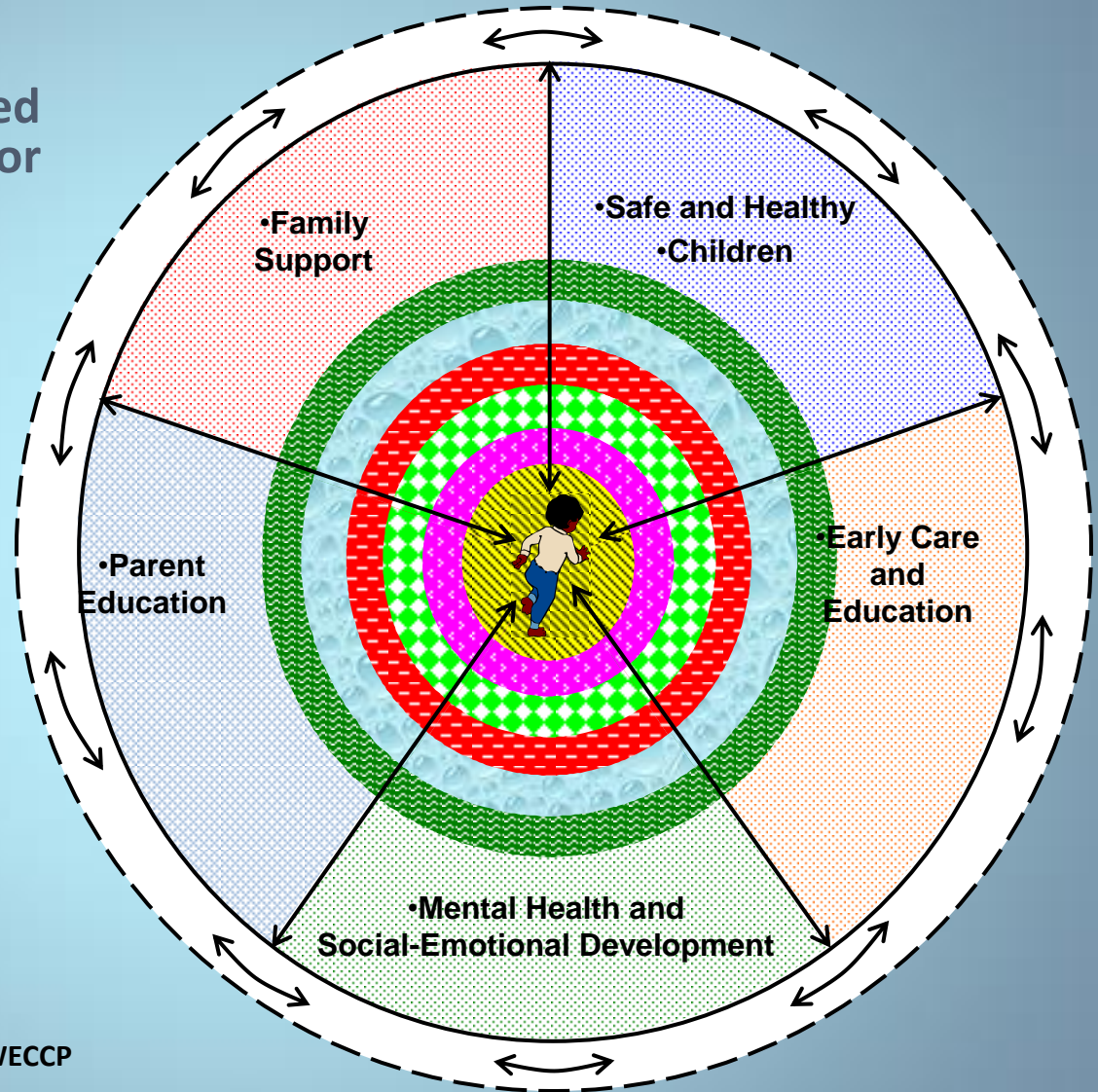
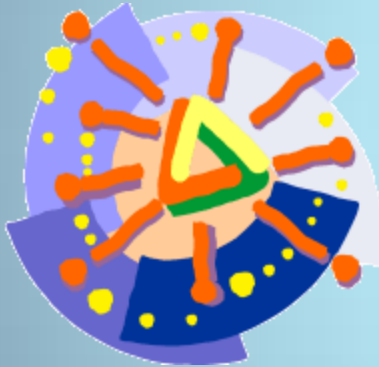
- **Developing a Action Plan**
- **Taking Action on the Work Plan**
- **Celebrating Success**

Expanding the Stakeholders

- Child Care & preschool
- Early/ Head Start
- School 4/5 kindergartens
- School special education
- Title 1
- Birth to 3 programs
- Other disability services
- Even Start
- Family resource centers,
- Parent education and family support
- Health, social services, and nutrition
- Intergenerational

Recreating Structure: Align with new funding streams

DHS: ECCS Grant Reinforced Comprehensive Cross Sector Early Childhood System Components 2003



- Young Child from Birth to Age Five
- Local Communities Statewide
- Parents, Family, Close Caretakers
- Regional Networks, Agencies, Entities: WECCP
- State Agencies, Organizations, and Government: WECCP
- National Government, Funding, Policies, Technical Assistance

Common Work: Professional Development

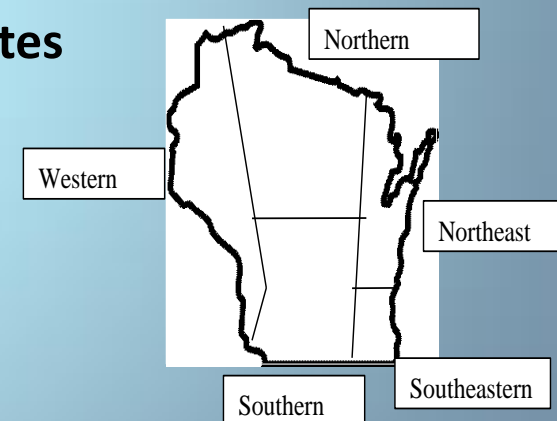
PDI ----- Intersecting Interests Forums, Early Childhood Care and Education Career Guide and other Efforts
Working to:

- create articulation between and within the training programs,
- increase use of alternative assessment and portfolios, and
- training teachers to work in diverse and inclusive programs.

Common Work:

Building State and Regional Networks

- Engage a shared vision and align professional development
- Mechanism to share information and increase access to resources
- Cross department structure: leadership & the “b team”
- Braided funding
- Regional communication network: listservs & websites
- Regional collaboration coach
- Regional action teams
- Work plans and mini-grants
- Networking opportunities



2013 Funders: IDEA Part B, McKinney Vento Homeless, Head Start Collaboration Office, Child Care Block Grant, ECCS, and Race to the Top-ELC,

COMMON WORK:

Public Private Partnership

- Meetings with key business people supported by Preknow funds
- Regional meetings with business and philanthropic community
- Connections to national efforts
- Beginning of Partnership for Wisconsin Economic Success (PWES)

COMMON WORK: SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES...

- **Forming early childhood coordinating councils**
- **Early Intervention/special education services delivered in child care setting**
- **Using community approaches for 4 year old kindergarten**
- **Pooling funds and resources to create family resource centers**
- **Aligning screening processes for young children**
- **Finding better ways to collect and share data**

Spreading the Word

- Brought together early childhood stakeholders in 40 communities across the state: Town Meeting and Teleconference in November, 1995
- Developed 1999 publication: *New Visions Wisconsin Communities Creating New Visions for Serving Young Children and Their Families*
- Developed 2001 report: *Working to Transform Early Childhood Education and Care*
- Worked with 2002 National Governor's Association for *Building Public & Political Will for EC*
- Inclusive Child Care Development: State adaptation of Together Children Grow materials

Re-Creating for a High Level Organizational Structure

National Head Start Promotes Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Councils

**Wisconsin Creates the ECAC
And Accesses ARRA Funding**

**The WECCP Action Team dissolves thinking the ECAC will support the collaboration structure.
Other WECCP structures continue through braided funding team.**

Governor's Executive Order #269

Summary of WI ECAC Responsibilities

- Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment
- Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination
- Recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection
- Recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans
- Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators
- Make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate; and
- Hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities
- Direct that after the Council submits a statewide strategic report
- Meet periodically to review any implementation of the recommendations in such report and any changes in State and local needs, in accordance with Public Law 110-134

ECAC Approved Goal Statement

Every Young Child Will Be
Healthy, Nurtured, Safe and Successful

ECAC Approved

Preliminary Guiding Principles

The ECAC approved the guiding principles in the WI Early Childhood System Plan for the ECAC grant application. The principles will be revisited prior to use in the final report.

- CHILDREN: Our primary focus is on the best interests of Wisconsin's *children*, whose early years are crucial to their success.
- PARENTS: *Parents* are the primary decision-makers, teachers, and advocates for their children.
- COMMUNITIES: *Communities* must provide integrated quality services to ensure children's education, physical and mental health, and family support.
- SYSTEMS: Public, private, and government entities share the responsibility for implementing comprehensive *systems*.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Quality *professional development* opportunities support a skilled and stable workforce.
- FINANCING: Adequate and equitable *financing*, derived from multiple funding sources, supports comprehensive and continuous early childhood services.
- PUBLIC POLICY: Wisconsin *public policy* should support blended funding streams to create comprehensive systems.

ECAC Approved

Preliminary Outcomes

The ECAC approved the outcome in the WI Early Childhood System Plan for the grant application. These outcomes will continue to be addressed through the System assessment committee and finalized once the Data Committee is established.

- Desired Outcomes
- Healthy Births
- Healthy Development
- Available and accessible high quality early learning opportunities
- Families are supported and connected in culturally responsive ways
- Families nurture and protect children
- Communities are caring and responsive
- Communities have articulated systems to advocate for children and families

ECAC Approved Statement of the Conditions that Promote School Success

The ECAC accepted the following definitions from the WCCF School Readiness Report.

- The **responsiveness** of families and communities to children – this includes access for all young children to quality early care and education, parent support, and availability of adequate nutrition and health care for all young children.
- The **receptiveness** of schools as they serve children – this includes the presence of transition policies from home to the formal school environment, continuity between early care and education settings and schools, schools' commitment to the success of all children and teachers; and partnerships with communities.
- **Ready** children – this includes children's proficiency in developmentally appropriate competencies and skills across the five dimensions of early development and learning (health and physical development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language and literacy development, and cognitive skills and general knowledge).

ECAC Early Childhood System Proposed Dimensions

Co-chairs for the System Assessment Committee and the System Design Task Force have agreed to these dimensions:

- **Access, Outreach, and Engagement**
- **Accountability and Evaluation**
- **Financing**
- **Governance**
- **Professional Development**
- **Quality Standards**

Wisconsin State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Governor appointed Co-Chairs: DCF Secretary and DPI State Superintendent
Members appointed by the Governor as per federal requirements and executive order

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) Action Team

Current initiatives as well as assignments from ECAC

May also participate in ECAC ad-hoc committees as appropriate

Workgroup for select Phase I priorities:
WMELS Initiative, Networks,
Higher Ed Initiative, and Professional development

Early Learning Committee

Safe and Healthy Children

Strengthening Families

Professional Development/ Higher Education

Regional Action Teams

Council members with Regional structures may add new members to Regional Teams to assure representation on the regional level.

Teams provide regional coordination, as well as input and focus at the regional and local levels

Council Ad Hoc Committees

Initial committees are determined based on Phase I and Phase II priorities. As priorities are determined in Phase II and III, new committees may be formed.

ECAC co chairs appoint committee chairs (Each committee chair may recommend a co chair)
Committee members (or their Designees) are chosen based on their interest

Funding Application

Initial and ongoing input to development of:

- ECAC Application for federal funding including Phase I priorities
- Federal Early Learning Challenge Fund
- Other grants as applicable

(Created July meeting)

System Assessment

Initial and ongoing input to development of system assessment including:

- Phase II: Review existing assessments and priorities
- Phase III: Define additional areas to assess, complete assessment, recommend priorities

(Created 9/3/09)

System Design

- Phase II recommendations for system components and structure
- Align Birth to 5 policy initiatives

(Created 1/10)

Data Alignment/Annual Report

Work group for Council application data project

(To be formed in early 2010)

Public Input

Input Groups

Key state councils, boards, etc. with members on Council

Children's Trust Fund /Celebrate Children Foundation Board

Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (DHS)

Maternal Child Health Advisory Committee (DHS)

Partnership for Wisconsin's Economic Success (PWES)

PreK- 16 Leadership Council

State Superintendent's Advisory Council on 4K and community approaches (DPI)

Related Groups

Other State Councils, Boards, etc.

Other State-level Initiatives

Building Bridges to Family Economic Success

Quality Rating Improvement System

Liaison: Wisconsin Head Start Collaboration Office Director whose role is facilitating the alignment of federal requirements, Council, Staff team, and WECCP Action Team

Steering Committee
ECAC Staff and Committee chairs are to coordinate and advance the work of committees and ECAC

ECAC System Assessment Preliminary Summary

Two ends of a continuum:

- 1) The “system” is as reflected in existing documentation, a somewhat unconnected set of programs which are serving families, but we have little understanding of how well they perform along most dimensions
- 2) The reports vastly under-document how well the “system” works

ECAC Goal

Every child will be healthily, nurtured, safe and successful

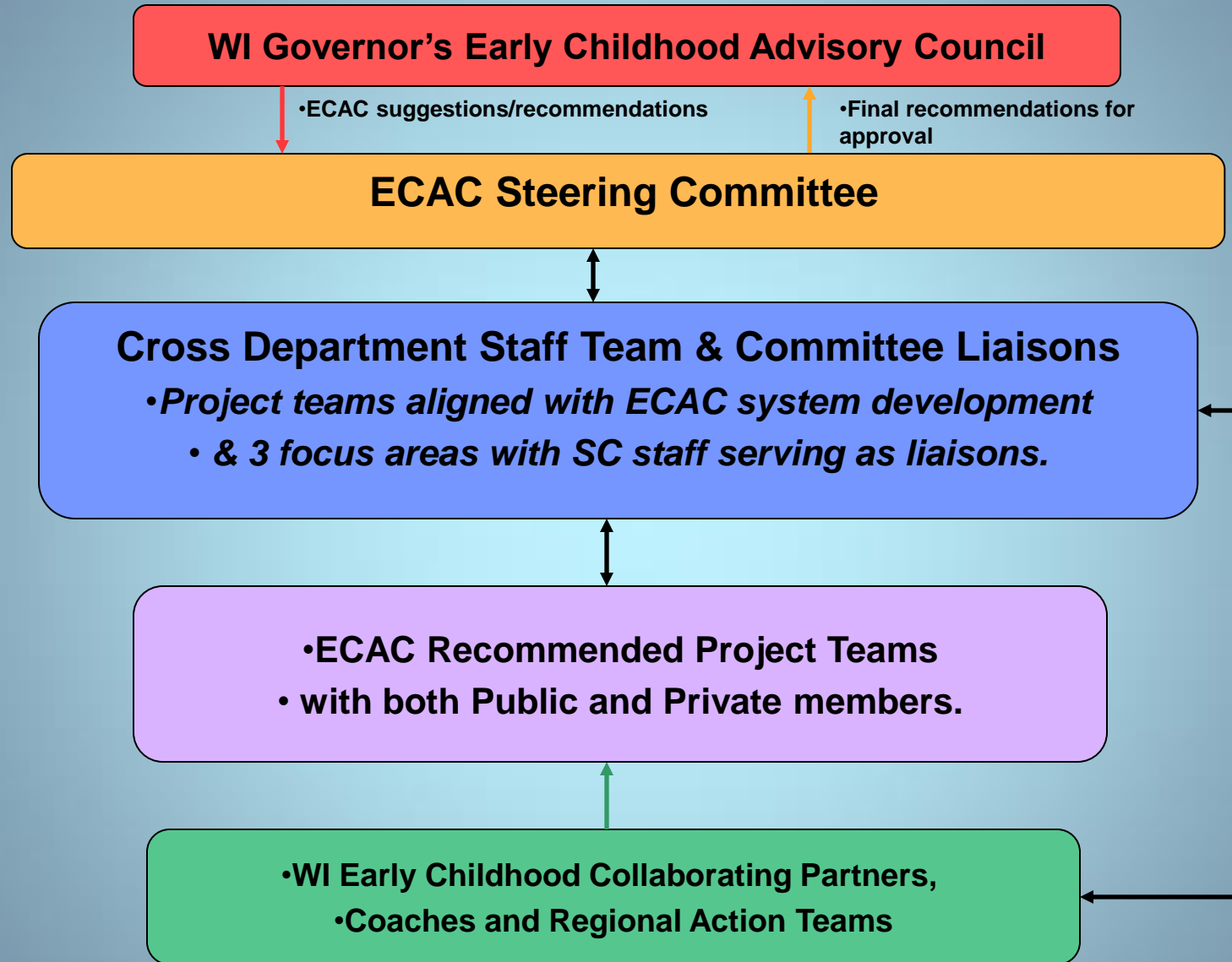
System Level Interventions

- Screening and Assessment
- Longitudinal Data System
- Public Private Partnership
- Family and Community Partnerships
- Professional Development

Desired Outcomes

- Safe and Healthy Children
- Stable, Nurturing, Economically Secure Families
- Quality Early Learning

•WI Structure for Early Learning and Development

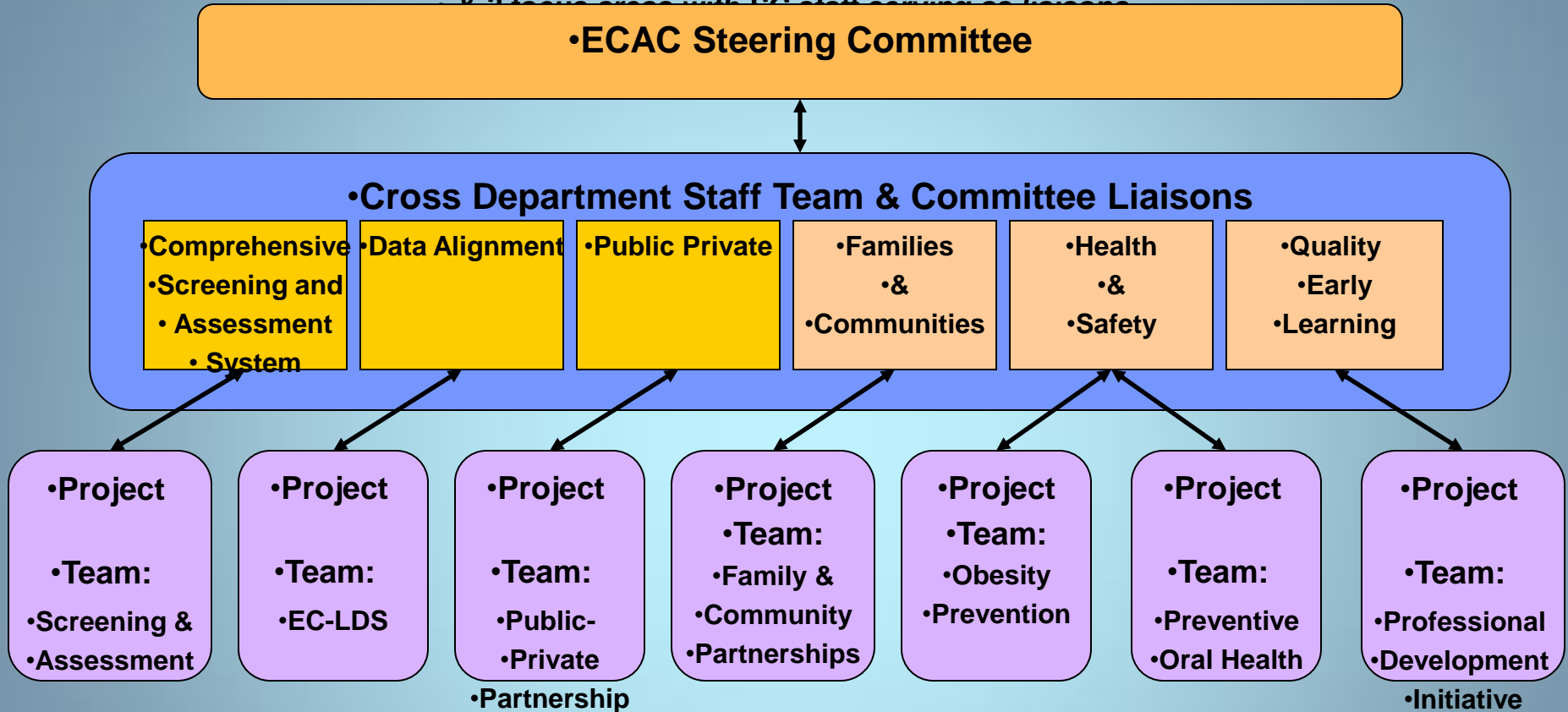


•*The WI Early Childhood Collaborating Partners Action Team has been folded into this revised committee structure.

•WI Structure for Early Learning and Development

•Project teams aligned with ECAC system development

•2 focus areas with SC staff serving as liaisons



•*The Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners Action Teams have been folded into to this structure.

•*Outside Individuals/Groups have an opportunity to participate in a project by indicating interest to the SC member chair or the project team leader.

